



# Avalon City Council Weekly Update 12-11-15

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## **Fire - Joint Training**

The Avalon Fire Department had an opportunity this week to participate in a tabletop incident management training with SCE. This particular training focused on a significant landslide and associated gas leak as the training scenario. Drills of this type allow multiple stakeholders to train together and become accustomed to a unified incident command structure. Typically, drills of this type are scheduled annually and allow individuals at all levels to exercise new skill sets or refresh on items that are used infrequently.

## **Sheriff - Preparing for a Terrorist Incident**

In light of the recent tragedy in San Bernardino and all of the national news regarding shootings and terrorist events, we have to be prepared for the unexpected, despite the fact that we live on this beautiful island. In the upcoming weeks, I will provide a series of public safety suggestions that you, most likely, will never need. However, the reality is there have been terrorist attacks in our country, terrorists pose a real threat to American lives and we are not exempt from an attack.

For now, I just want to reassure everyone that even though terrorist attacks on soft targets are possible, we do not have any information or reason to believe that any portion of Catalina Island is a potential target. We have and will always do our best to protect everyone in this community from any type of harm, but we need your help. We ask everyone to report any person(s) or activity that you believe is suspicious. Our crime prevention motto is; "If you see something, say something." The number to call for emergencies (from any type of phone) is "9-1-1," the business line to the Avalon Sheriff's Station is 310-510-0174 or if you wish to remain anonymous, call "LA Crime Stoppers" by dialing 800-222-TIPS (8477).

## **Rec. Dept. - Santa's Mailbox**

Santa's Mailbox was just flown in from the North Pole and placed in the Atwater Post Office. The last day to get your letters in will be Dec. 20th. The Recreation Dept. will answer each letter to continue to have the little ones BELIEVE. Thank You's goes to Post Master Margarita Jackson for hunting down an old post office drop box and having it shipped to the Island. Pubic Works Luis Rubio and Derek George painted the box and along side Chris Arnold made the North Pole sign. Claudia Canby came in and did the vinyl lettering that completed the magical Christmas Santa's Mailbox. Many City Departments as well as outside community members came together to make a lot of children happy.



## **Rec. Dept - Skate Park**

Joe Montano and David Hart from Recreation have cleaned out the entire skate park of any debris last Thursday. Any extra construction work that needed to be done to open the skate park has been completed by Chris Arnold. Chris, Monica, Jeffery, and David are in agreement that the Park is Safe enough to open. We have a sign on the Park already but are working on getting a new one by the end of the week.

David talked to Mike Flynn today 12/7 reiterating we need all his construction supplies and equipment placed at least 10ft from the surrounding fence. He asked if he can do it later this week. David let him know we were under the direction of council to move it ASAP. Mr. Flynn said he will start moving it on 12/7. David talked to Mr. Flynn on 12/8 because the supplies were still not moved. Talked to Mr. Flynn on 12/9 and he moved the concrete bags 10 ft but the drywall under the blue tarp was still there. David informed him on 12/10 that the supplies under the tarp were still there. As of Friday 12/11 the Blue tarp is still there. Mr. Flynn will continue to get further notice.

David spoke with Brian Ballard of CIMC about moving the container away from the fence. Mr. Ballard says he will have moved sometime next wee with the help of Mr. Flynn's crane.

David spoke with Jeffery and they walked around field of dreams to decide the best place to move the K-rails. Those same K-rails are going to be moved and placed on Pebbly Beach Rd in 3 weeks. They discussed whether it would be efficient to wait or to do it now. If we do it now, we will have to take two guys off other duties to work a full day to move all the k-rails when they are already scheduled to move 3 weeks from now. It would be paying twice for the same work.

David has been in constant contact with Monica and Chris Arnold, updating them on the whole process and they are doing the same with him on the build. Our next Phase is to have Chris build new boxes as Monica and David are working on the future design and direction of the park. They feel they are having a successful collaboration.



## **Public Works - Step Beach Stairs**

Although we had anticipated that work would start last month at this location, we were finally able to get it going this week.

After several requests from the public, we realized that new steps down to the ocean floor at this location would need to be added. We are currently working on this installation, and we are hopeful that the construction activities will be completed by early next week. Again thanks go out to everyone for their understanding of the timing and issues involved with working next to the ocean.

## **Public Works - Tree Trimming**

Again this week it was necessary to trim back some of the loose and dead branches downtown. This process creates some inconvenience to the public and our visitors, but it is necessary for public safety. We thank all those who have been patient and for their understanding and cooperation.

## **Public Works/Administration - Aerial Photography**

Staff met with Environmental Image Group, a local business with years of experience in the field of aerial photography, to explore the possibility of using drones to document key areas of town. At this time we are interested in Pebbly Beach Road as we are reviewing the damages from the 2014 storms with our insurance and the State Office of Emergency Services, and having adequate documentation is critical. We hope that this drone test will not only help us with this effort, but set us up to explore other uses of drone imagery, such as for the storm drains in preparation for El Nino. We are hopeful that these images can also be integrated into our in house GIS system, and perhaps we can even do annual documentation of key areas to assist in monitoring them. We are excited to see what can be done with these drones!



## **Capital Improvements - Olive Street Handrail**

Our efforts on the Olive Street pedestrian walkway have been ongoing for the last several weeks. We were able to work on this loose and deteriorated existing handrail during the times when other emergencies did not pop up.

We are pleased to announce that this work has been completed. We would like to thank our expert tradesmen on staff, for their hard work and efficient scheduling of the work activities.

## **Harbor Department - Water Taxi Service**

Island Enterprises shore boat service has advised the City they will not be operating during the week from Monday at Noon until Friday at 4:00pm beginning November 16, 2015.

During the time Island Enterprises negotiates the contract, the Harbor Patrol will transport people to and from their vessels during the days and hours the shore boat is not operating .

## **Harbor Department - Temporary Fuel Dock**

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Now that the Fuel Dock area is starting to be demolished, a temporary fuel facility for vessels has been established at the Rescue Dock.

## **Harbor Department - Dinghy Dock**

In preparation of the fuel dock demolition, the Casino Dinghy Dock has been removed. During the construction period, a temporary additional dinghy dock has been installed and will take the place of a loading float on the East side of the Pleasure Pier. Kayaks will be instructed to be stored on the beach.

## **Harbor Department - Part Time Harbor Patrol Officer Applicant Interviews**

The Harbor Department had advertised open Part time Harbor Patrol Officer positions and applicants will be interview on Thursday December 17, 2015 to fill the vacancies.

## **Harbor Department - Weather Forecast - Small Craft Advisory & Gale Warning**

INNER WATERS FROM POINT MUGU TO SAN MATEO PT. CA INCLUDING SANTA CATALINA AND ANACAPA ISLANDS-229 AM PST FRI DEC 11 2015

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY IN EFFECT UNTIL 1 PM PST THIS AFTERNOON

GALE WARNING IN EFFECT FROM 1 PM PST THIS AFTERNOON THROUGH LATE TONIGHT

### TODAY

W WINDS 15 TO 25 KT WITH GUSTS TO 30 KT...BECOMING 20 TO 30 KT WITH GUSTS TO 35 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. COMBINED SEAS 7 TO 9 FT DOMINANT PERIOD 15 SECONDS...BUILDING TO 8 TO 11 FT DOMINANT PERIOD 17 SECONDS IN THE AFTERNOON. CHANCE OF RAIN. SLIGHT CHANCE OF TSTMS IN THE AFTERNOON.

### TONIGHT

NW WINDS 20 TO 30 KT WITH GUSTS TO 35 KT DIMINISHING TO 10 TO 15 KT LATE. COMBINED SEAS 8 TO 11 FT DOMINANT PERIOD 13 SECONDS.

### SAT

NW WINDS 10 TO 20 KT WITH LOCAL GUSTS TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 2 TO 4 FT. W SWELL 7 TO 10 FT AT 16 SECONDS...SUBSIDING TO 5 TO 7 FT AT 15 SECONDS IN THE AFTERNOON.

### SAT NIGHT

NW WINDS 10 TO 20 KT WITH LOCAL GUSTS TO 25 KT...BECOMING 5 TO 10 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 1 TO 3 FT. W SWELL 5 TO 7 FT AT 14 SECONDS...SUBSIDING TO 3 TO 5 FT AT 14 SECONDS AFTER MIDNIGHT.

## **Finance Department - MTA Audit Completed**

The City's Transportation Fund is audited annually by a firm contracted by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to ensure that the City is using and recording grant funds appropriately. This week, the MTA firm completed the audit with an unmodified opinion and determined the City is compliant with the requirements of the MTA grant programs. An "unmodified opinion" means that the City's financial records and statements are fairly and appropriately presented in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The audit firm will issue the formal financial report to MTA later this month. The City's Finance Director, Bob Mescher appreciates the diligence of Audra McDonald, Administrative Analyst who tracks and applies for grants; Chris Woidzik, Interim Chief Financial Officer; and all of the Finance Department staff who achieved a clean report.

## **Finance/Administration - Insurance Review**

Recently staff had a conference call with Alliant Insurance Services regarding the coverage for city properties. It was a broad over view of the general coverage, and is a good stepping stone to review our types of coverage and areas where we might be exposed or lacking critical coverage. We requested a review of our properties and policies, in light of the damages from the two 2014 events, and considering the possibility of stormy conditions this winter. One of the smaller first step tasks is updating some of the addresses of the City's physical properties, which has highlighted a generally known idiosyncrasy of Avalon; the occasional discombombulation of our addresses. From there we will evaluate what properties might need additional coverage and what that will take.

## **Finance/Administration - CDAA**

Last month the City received Notification of Obligation and Payment from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services regarding Avalon's California Disaster Assistance Act - CDAA - Grant Program. As you are aware the City declared a State of Emergency for both Hurricane Marie in August 2014, and the Avalon Complex in December of 2014. In June of 2015 the City received a Director's Concurrence from OES which makes permanent structures damaged by the events eligible for this grant program. At the end of November we received a check for our first submitted project, the replacement of beach sand along front street. Only the sand on the upper beaches in the constructed and maintained areas were eligible. There are 11 projects in total which are in consideration for CDAA, however each individual project is required to submit Damage Survey Report with associated repair costs and this does guarantee funding. A big thanks goes to the Finance Department and Aliana Gonzales for compiling the required information together, without her hard work we would not have received this first check! The CDAA grant also accounts for administrative time spent processing the application.

## **IT - Internet Service Upgrade**

Catalina Broadband has announced they will be performing upgrades to their internet infrastructure beginning Dec 16 through the 18th. The City's internet service at all sites could potentially be affected with potential down time or slowness during this period, where the peak of any interruption is anticipated to take place on the 17th.

During these three days, if you experience slowness of internet access or email functionality, I appreciate your patience as Catalina Broadband completes their improvements. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [pgrady@beyondsoftwaresolutions.com](mailto:pgrady@beyondsoftwaresolutions.com) or (760) 820-4942. Thank you.

## **Administration - El Niño**

The City has been preparing for El Niño on many fronts, one of which is the sewage collection system. Environ Strategy, who manages the Waste Water Treatment Plant, sewer and salt water system for the City, is maintaining the collection system in preparation for the rainy season in part by flushing and jetting the system and managing root control. Our thanks goes out to all the crews how have been working hard to keep on top of this important effort.

## **City Manager - Desal Unit #2 Online**

On November 30, 2015 Southern California Edison hosted the dedication of the second desalination unit along with the City of Avalon and the County of Los Angeles. The new unit is a new source of water for Catalina Island, and, for now, helps stave off Stage 3 water rationing and the 50% water rationing that comes with it. This is a huge milestone for Catalina Island and, as milestones tend to be, it was no small task. And we would like to thank Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell and his staff for taking the time to come to the island for the ceremony and for taking the time to meet with our City Council, Congressman Alan Lowenthal for sending Donna Carlos with a Certificate presented to the City, SCE and the County for a successful collaboration, Supervisor Don Knabe for his continuing efforts to assist the island and for attending the ceremony, LA Co. Public Works for their willingness to assist and making the trip Monday, the Chamber and Jim Luttjohann for speaking and representing the local business community, to everyone who was there and helped along the way, and of course to the SCE team who not only made this project happen but brought us together for a nice celebration.



### **Administration - A Record (Retention) Day**

On Tuesday the Chamber with the City hosted a community 'fixer' on record retention for local businesses. Corodata and Kaizen InfoSource took a trip to the island to share professional information on record destruction and retention schedules, respectively. A handful of local business attended to learn about what files they should keep and what they can clear out. To bring it full circle next Tuesday 12/15 any business, or resident, can take their box of old documents to Catalina Freightline to be shipped off the island and confidentially destroyed. It is one of the City staff goals to finalize our record retention schedule and clear out some old boxes, but we are on a longer timeline to complete that. Kaizen is interested in exploring how a community records management tool would work for the local business and if there is an interest. The City is happy to help facilitate and partner on these types of projects which pool our individual resources to obtain something we each couldn't reach on our own.

## SHRED DROP-OFF DAY

**What:** Document Shredding Box Drop-Off

**Where:** Catalina Freight Line, Pebbly Beach

**When:** Tuesday, December 15th, 9am to 3pm

**Cost:** \$3 per box (10" x 12" x 15" bankers box)



All boxes dropped at Catalina Freight Line will be barged to the mainland and picked up by Corodata for confidential shredding. A Certificate of Destruction will be sent upon shred completion. Corodata has assisted other island entities with confidential shredding services. Want more info about Corodata? Visit their website at [www.Corodata.com](http://www.Corodata.com).



**Questions & More Info:**  
Contact the Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce  
310-510-7645 [www.CatalinaChamber.com](http://www.CatalinaChamber.com)

### City Manager - Avalon's Air Quality

Recently Management Aide Jordan Monroe attended The Impact of Air Pollution on Human Health in Long Beach. The event was brought to our attention by Councilmember Cassidy, and was sponsored by the Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. While the focus of this meeting was obviously outside of Avalon it was good to see how these conversations are being discussed in other communities and what options might be available for Avalon and Catalina Island. The meeting also gave us the opportunity to connect Catalina to the SCAQMD and express our desires to be a part of their air quality solutions. Just because we are a small island community doesn't mean we cannot have a big impact in demonstrating the success and benefits of the SCAQMD efforts as well as other state policies, such as the Zero Emission Vehicle Action Plan. We have been in contact with SCAQMD staff to see how Avalon can fit into this picture, and how to quantify the impacts of mobile source air pollution on, and from Avalon as a means to measure the success of our efforts. Keep in mind that the vehicle noise ordinance, to some degree, also impacts air quality as we found that poorly maintained vehicles often are the loud offenders, and are also inefficiently running producing more pollution. Not to mention that the quiet electric vehicles emit no tail pipe pollution. On a side note, the meeting was conducted in English and Spanish with headphones available to audience members with live interpreters providing real time translations to accommodate the Spanish speaking population who is heavily impacted in the meetings target areas.

### City Manager - Funding for Water

Recently Management Aide Jordan Monroe attended the Gateway Water Management Authority (GWMA) Integrated Regional Water Management group (IRWM) grants sub-committee to discuss upcoming funding opportunities for the GWMA and it's members. While in general many projects will not impact Catalina Island, it is critical that Catalina be present and represented during these processes, which means trips off the island. The committee is looking into the Prop 1 funding, as well as other funding avenues, and how to best serve the GWMA in pursuing funding opportunities. Obviously this is of high importance for Catalina as we are looking towards the future of water system design and needs for the island, as well as how to recover as much cost for the current desalination project underway. There is a lot of information to process and Southern California Edison with the City have been meeting monthly to discuss and prepare for these funding opportunities. However we may also require some help from our state representatives in pursuing funding for the desalination project. The City's membership to the GWMA is important to help Catalina be a part of the big world of California water and to help ensure we are kept 'on the map.'

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Avalon City Staff